because of the absence of a First Class Magistrate's Court. On account of the large number of criminal offences triable by a First Class Magistrate, they should have either a First Class Magistrate's Court or the Tahsildar of the taluk should be invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. Though their prayer was granted as a result of the representation at the 13th session of the Assembly, they were again put back to their original condition when the Tahsildar, who had the powers of a First Class Magistrate, was transferred from their taluk.

The Member then complained that the Court of the Stationary Magistrate was housed in a most unsuitable building and requested that the Court be shifted to Shertalay or accommodated in a decent building.

Dewan.—The District Magistrate will be asked to report on this matter.

The Member's next request was that a Police sub-station be opened at Mararikulam where grave offences took place often and there was no security of person or property.

He then requested that the Police sub-station, which was in existence at Thanneermukkam and was abolished during the time of Mr. George, the late Police Commissioner, be re-established. The head-quarters of the Arukutty Circle Inspector of Police should also be transferred to Shertalay or, if that was not possible, a capable Police officer should be posted to Shertalay.

Dewan's reply.—The question of posting a Tahsildar with First Class Magisterial powers at Shertalay will be considered. The head-quarters of the Circle Inspector of Police cannot be shifted from Arukutty, as it is an important Excise station where much revenue is collected. That place must have a Circle Inspector. As for posting a competent Police officer at Shertalay, the Commissioner of Police will attend to it. The representations of the Member about the need for sub-stations at Mararikulam and Thanneermukkam will be referred to the Commissioner of Police for report.

35. Need for a First Class Magistrate's Court at Attungal.

Mr. J. Kamalam (Member, T. I. C., Attungal) said that, before the year 1089, a court presided over by an officer having the powers of a First Class Magistrate and exercising jurisdiction over the whole taluk was in existence at Attungal. From 1090 M. E., the Government extended the jurisdiction of the court at Varkala over all the *pakuthies* of the Chirayinkil taluk except the three small *pakuthies* of Attungal, Edakkode and Koonthalloor; and in consequence, the Magistrate at Attungal was deprived of his First Class powers. Such a state of affairs caused inconvenience and trouble to the people as they were thus forced to go long distances. Further, the present arrangement caused loss of money both to the people and the Government. The Member, therefore, prayed that a First Class Magistrate's Court be established at Attungal, with jurisdiction over the whole taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(3) Civil Justice.

36. Need for passing definite rules for fixing the value of improvements.

Mr. M. Kochukrishna Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) complained about the absence of specific rules for assessing the value of improvements concerning which disputes often arose between parties in civil courts and sometimes between the parties and the Government. A few decisions of the High Court contained some instructions, but the decisions were based exclusively on the evidence or admission of parties in particular cases and had no reference to the customs of the different localities or to the methods of valuing non-bearing cocoanut or other kinds of trees. He mentioned the following as some of the points in regard to which definite rules were necessary :—

(1) What are the kinds of improvements on which value can be claimed ?

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